# Montana State Legislature

#### 2015 SESSION

#### **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS**

Business Page
[Signed by Chairman]
Roll Call
Standing Committee Reports
Tabled Bills
Fiscal Reports
Rolls Call Votes
Proxy Forms
Visitor Registrations

\*Any other documents, which were submitted after the committee hearing has ended and/or was submitted late [within 48 hours], regarding information in the committee hearing.

\*Witness Statements that were not presented

as exhibits.

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#### **BUSINESS REPORT**

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### **HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Place: Capitol

**Time:** 8:00 AM **Room:** 137

#### **BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:**

HB 298 - Generally revise concealed weapons laws - Rep. Bill Harris

HB 320 - Revise laws regarding firearms on school grounds - Rep. Carl Glimm

HB 371 - Generally revise concealed weapon laws - Rep. Kerry White

#### **EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:**

HB 219 - Do pass as amended

HB 255 - Tabled

HB 272 - Do pass

HB 309 - Tabled

HB 315 - Do pass

HB 365 - Tabled

HJ 4 - Do pass

#### Comments:

REP Gerald (Jerry) Bennett, Chair



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT/EXCUSED
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	X	
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR	$\swarrow$	
REP. KATHY KELKER	X	
REP. SETH BERGLEE	X	
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI	X	
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X	
REP. JENNY ECK	X	
REP. ZAC PERRY	X	
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	X	
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD	X	
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	X	
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	X	
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY		X
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	X	
REP. NATE MCCONNELL	$\mathcal{L}$	
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X	
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	X	
REP. KIRK WAGONER	X	
REP. ANDREW PERSON	X	
REP. KEITH REGIER		X
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN	X	



February 11, 2015 Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker:

We, your committee on Judiciary recommend that House Bill 219 (first reading copy -- white) do pass as amended.

Representative Gerald (Jerry) Bennett, Chair

#### And, that such amendments read:

1. Page 2, line 5. Following: line 5

Insert: "(3) For high-risk sexual offenders who are no longer
 under the supervision of the department of corrections, the
 residential and geographic restrictions provided in
 subsections (1)(a) and (1)(e) do not apply if the high-risk
 sexual offender possesses an approved safety plan from a
 sexual offender evaluator to mitigate the risk of
 reoffending and protect public safety. The safety plan must
 be reevaluated annually by a sexual offender evaluator to
 ensure any conditions or requirements are adequate and
 protect public safety."

Renumber: subsequent subsections

- END -

Committee Vote:
Yes 14, No 7
Fiscal Note Required X

2111/2m



February 11, 2015 Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker:

We, your committee on **Judiciary** recommend that **House Bill 315** (first reading copy -- white) **do pass**.

Signed:

Representative Gerald (Jerry) Bennett, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote:
Yes 12, No 9
Fiscal Note Required X

HB0315001SC.hbb

2/1/16



February 11, 2015 Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker:

We, your committee on **Judiciary** recommend that **House Joint Resolution 4** (first reading copy -- white) **do pass**.

Signed: Representative Gerald (Verry) Bennett, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote: Yes 12, No 9 Fiscal Note Required \_\_\_

D11/16

HJ0004001SC.hbb



February 11, 2015 Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker:

We, your committee on **Judiciary** recommend that **House Bill 272** (first reading copy -- white) **do pass**.

Representative Garald (Jerry) Bennett, Chair

- END -

Committee Vote:
Yes 15, No 6
Fiscal Note Required \_\_\_

SING.

#### **BILL TABLED NOTICE**

#### HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

The **HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE** TABLED

HB 255 - Referendum regarding disqualification of judges receiving certain contributions - Rep. Matthew Monforton

HB 309 - Create child abuse and neglect review commission - Rep. Kathy Kelker

HB 365 - Generally revise indecency laws - Rep. David (Doc) Moore

by motion, on **Wednesday, February 11, 2015** (PLEASE USE THIS ACTION DATE IN LAWS BILL STATUS).

(For the Committee)

(For the Chief Clerk of the House)

February 11, 2015 (2:47pm)

McKenzie Chambers, Secretary

Phone: 444-4846



REP. KEITH REGIER

REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN

### The Big Sky Country

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER H D			DATE 2/11/15	
MOTION DO Pass				
NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY	
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	7 3 1 1 1	110	INOXI	
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR		$\mathcal{Z}$		
REP. KATHY KELKER		V		
REP. SETH BERGLEE	X ,			
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI	X			
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X			
REP. JENNY ECK		X		
REP. ZAC PERRY	$\chi_{i}$			
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	X			
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD		X		
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	X			
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ		X		
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	X			
REP. THERESA MANZELLA		X		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL		X		
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X			
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	V			
REP. KIRK WAGONER	Ž			
REP. ANDREW PERSON	$\sim$	7		



### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 265	2
MOTION DO PASS AS	Amended

DATE 2/11/16

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR		<b>X</b>	
REP. KATHY KELKER		$\swarrow$	
REP. SETH BERGLEE	$\sim$		,
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI		X	
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	$\times$		· ·
REP. JENNY ECK		X	
REP. ZAC PERRY		X	
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	X		
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD		×	
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL		$\searrow$	
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ		X	X
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	X		
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	$\times$		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL		X	
REP. STEPHANIE HESS		×	
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	$\sim$		
REP. KIRK WAGONER		<u> </u>	
REP. ANDREW PERSON		X	
REP. KEITH REGIER	X		X
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN	$\mathcal{N}$		



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 272	DATE 2/11/15
MOTION DO PASS	

NAME	AYE	NO	DDOXX
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	AIL		PROXY
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR	X 50	X	
REP. KATHY KELKER	V		
REP. SETH BERGLEE	$\sim$		
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI		V:	
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS		×	
REP. JENNY ECK	X	70.	
REP. ZAC PERRY	X		
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	X		
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD	V		
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	X		
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	×.		
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY		V	
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	<b>X</b>		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL	X		
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X		
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	$\widetilde{\mathcal{X}}$		
REP. KIRK WAGONER	X		
REP. ANDREW PERSON	X		
REP. KEITH REGIER		X	V
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN		X	



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER #B 309	DATE 2/11/15
MOTION Be Amended	
•	

NAME	ATT		
	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN			
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR	X		
REP. KATHY KELKER	X		
REP. SETH BERGLEE	X		
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI	X		
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
REP. JENNY ECK	X		
REP. ZAC PERRY	X		
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	Y		
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD	X		
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	X		
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	$\mathcal{L}$		
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	X		
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	X		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL	X		
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X		
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	X		
REP. KIRK WAGONER	Ž		
REP. ANDREW PERSON			
REP. KEITH REGIER			V
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN	$\checkmark$		~
	<del></del>	<u> </u>	



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 309
MOTION DO Pass As Amended

DATE <u>2/11/15</u>

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN		X	11(0711
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR	X		
REP. KATHY KELKER	X		
REP. SETH BERGLEE		V	
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI		V	
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS		V	
REP. JENNY ECK	X.		
REP. ZAC PERRY	V.		
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON		X	
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD	X		
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	X		
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	X		
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY		X	
REP. THERESA MANZELLA		X	
REP. NATE MCCONNELL	X		
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X		
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS		$\times$	
REP. KIRK WAGONER		X	
REP. ANDREW PERSON	X		
REP. KEITH REGIER		X	<b>X</b>
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN			
	<u> </u>	21 MEMB	ERS



### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUM	BER	HB	25.	5
MOTION_				

DATE 2/11/15

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR		<b>V</b>	
REP. KATHY KELKER	X		
REP. SETH BERGLEE	<b>V</b>		
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI		X	
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X		
REP. JENNY ECK		X	
REP. ZAC PERRY	<b>V</b>		
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	X		
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD		X	
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL		×	
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ			X
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	<b>V</b>		
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	K.		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL		$\mathcal{L}$	
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	$\chi$		
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	X		
REP. KIRK WAGONER	X		
REP. ANDREW PERSON		×	
REP. KEITH REGIER	$\sim$		X
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN	<b>X</b>	4474	



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER H 3219	
MOTION DO Pass As Amena	led

DATE <u>2/11/15</u>

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR		V.	
REP. KATHY KELKER		Ø	
REP. SETH BERGLEE	*		
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI	X		
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X		
REP. JENNY ECK	N/		
REP. ZAC PERRY	Ø		
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	×		710
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD		×	
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL		X	
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ		X	V
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	<b>X</b>		
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	X		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL	X		
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	K		
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	X		
REP. KIRK WAGONER	X		
REP. ANDREW PERSON		×	
REP. KEITH REGIER	P		×
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN		y	



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 219	DATE 2/11/15
MOTION BE Amended	

NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR		X	
REP. KATHY KELKER		×	
REP. SETH BERGLEE	X	·	
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI	Z		
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X		
REP. JENNY ECK	X		
REP. ZAC PERRY	×		7.00
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	V.		
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD	,	V	
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL	X		
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ		X	V
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	K		
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	X		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL	X		The state of the s
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X	7.1	
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	K		
REP. KIRK WAGONER	X	7/4 (4) / /	
REP. ANDREW PERSON		K	
REP. KEITH REGIER	X		X
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN	X		



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTE

BILL NUMBER HB 315	DATE 2/11/15
MOTION DO Pass	

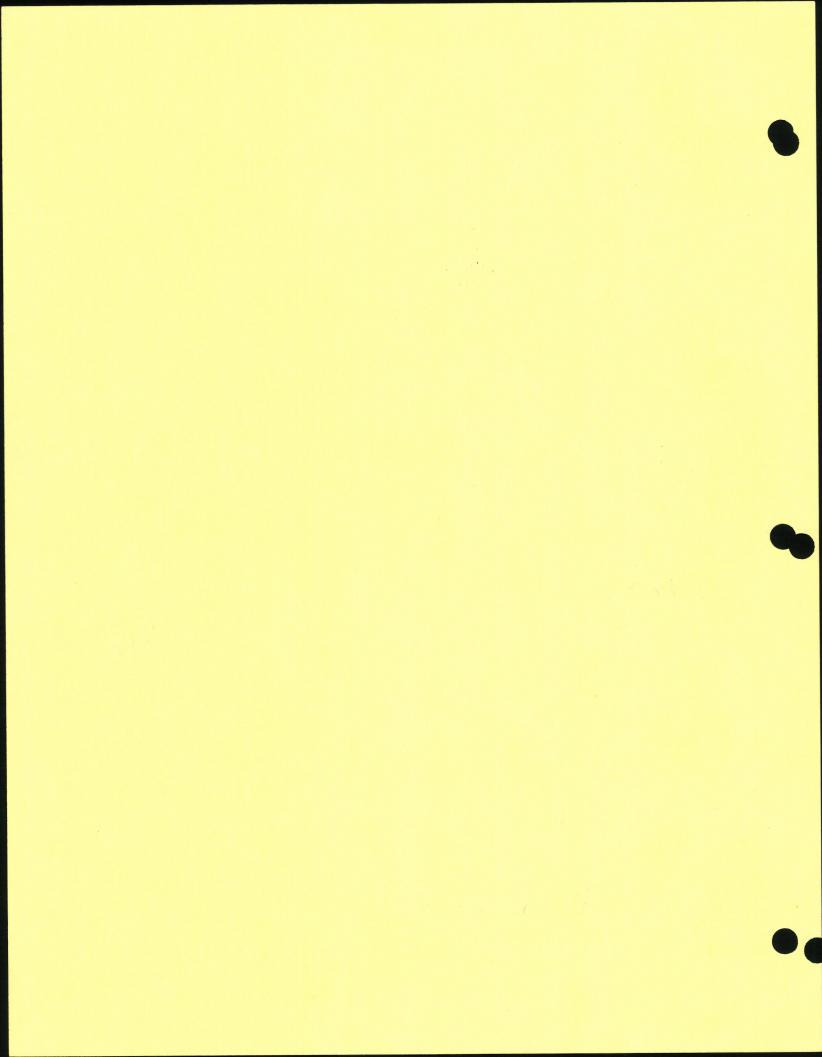
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NAME	AYE	NO	PROXY
REP. ALAN DOANE, VICE CHAIRMAN	X		
REP. VIRGINIA COURT, VICE CHAIR		X	
REP. KATHY KELKER			
REP. SETH BERGLEE	X		
REP. RANDALL PINOCCI	X	(10) 114(1)	
REP. CLAYTON FISCUS	X		
REP. JENNY ECK		X	
REP. ZAC PERRY		$\overline{\mathcal{L}}$	
REP. MATTHEW MONFORTON	X		
REP. MARGIE MACDONALD		X	
REP. ELLIE BOLDMAN HILL		X	
REP. CAROLYN PEASE-LOPEZ	-	X	
REP. SARAH LASZLOFFY	X		
REP. THERESA MANZELLA	X		
REP. NATE MCCONNELL		X	
REP. STEPHANIE HESS	X	90.00	
REP. G. BRUCE MEYERS	X	3,1,1	
REP. KIRK WAGONER	X		
REP. ANDREW PERSON		<b>N</b> .	
REP. KEITH REGIER	X		X
REP. JERRY BENNETT, CHAIRMAN	X)		



## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE PROXY

Committee because of other of the control of the co	r vote	ments.	I desire	ere are amenda	ents list th		ame and
BILL/AMENDMENT	AYE	NO		BILL/AMEND	MENT	AYE	NO
148219		X					
Amendment 219 HB 255		X					
48 255		X					
Amendment HB255		X					
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## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE PROXY

I request to be excused from t	the	Hor	ise	Jud	ciar	4		
Committee because of other c				W.				
_ Man D			desire	to leave my	proxy vote	with.		
VIII	10 A	ne						
Indicate Bill number and your number under the bill and inc	r vote A dicate a	ye or N separa	o. If the	ere are amen for each ame	dments, li endment.	st them	by na	me and
BILL/AMENDMENT	AYE	NO		BILL/AMEN	DMENT		AYE	NO
HB 219	V							
HB021901.414	L							
HB 322	V							
HB025502.ate	~							
table HB255	_							
HB 272								
HB 309		/						
1+B030901.4Ht		V						
HB 315	V	77-11-11						
M2 H								
ItB 365 table								
Rep. Kuth Rear				Date	2-	11-	15	-
(Signature)				Date				



#### MONTANA House of Representatives Visitors Register HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
HB 371 - Generally revise concealed weapon laws

Sponsor: Rep. Kerry White

#### **PLEASE PRINT**

PLEASE PRINT		T	T	
Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
GARI MARBUT	MSSA	V		
DONG NULLE	SELF	/		
	MSPOA		V.	
Jim Im Nh Donya Parrish	mt Credit			
MARK MURPHY	MACOP MPPA		V	
Nancy de Pastino	Moms Demand Action			
Panula Owen	Mons Demand Action			
John Mc Daniel	Mans Demand Action		1	
Nell McDarrel	Mans Demand Action		V	
TO WEINGALTUEL	WE4-WFT		U	
Garett Bacon	Self	X		
Rudolf Tonkink	Self	X		
Judy Tankink	Self	X		
I'm ormand	Self		$\mathcal{A}$	
Brad Grillin	mi Restangent Assa			,
Amee GRNOVERZ	ME lines commander	`	X	
David L. Nolsen	mi League of Cotos		×	
K- Abbott	MHRN		X	
Robintherin	MCABSV	ì	$\chi$	
MILLIAM BCLAWSON	MOMS DEMAND ACTION	<b>&gt;</b>		
Alan WRIGHT	Self:		X	
John MacDonald (	rity of missoula		~	
INVENCION	LITSZA			

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

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#### MONTANA House of Representatives Visitors Register HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 HB 298 - Generally revise concealed weapons laws Sponsor: Rep. Bill Harris

#### PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
GARY MARBUT	MSSA	V		
Dang NULLE	SELF	V		
Jim Smrth.	MSPOA		-	
John M-Daniel	M.A.G.V.		V	
	,			
30 th Ducrel	24 14 2			
(lef) /VI Daniel	M.A.6.			
Nancy de Pastino	Moms Demand Action			
Jamela Oven	Mous Demand toton		/	
Jerry Williams	MPPA		/	
Garett Bacon	Self	X		
RUDOLT Jankink	Self	X		
Judy lantink	SELF.	X		
Im RAVUdall	Self	×		
FRAM GANY	Selt.	X		
	Moms Demand Action		V	
Davix L. Nielse	mt Conque es Cothes		×	
WILLIAM E. CLAWSON TO	MOMS DIGMAND ACTION			
Abbott	MHRN		X	
Robin Turner	MCADSV		V	
ALAN WRIGHT	5014-	X	,	

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.

#### MONTANA House of Representatives Visitors Register HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
HB 320 - Revise laws regarding firearms on school grounds
Sponsor: Rep. Carl Glimm

#### PLEASE PRINT

Name	Representing	Support	Oppose	Info
		Support	Oppose	11110
GARY MARBUT	MSSA			
Dong NULLE	SELF			
Steve York	OPI,		X	
John Mc Danist	M. A. 6. V,			
Ness M Daniel	My A, 6, V.			
Nancy de Pastino	Morns Demand Action			
Ramela Quen	Woms Demand Acho.	^		
Garett Bacon	Self	X		
JC WEINGAUPDEL	WEA-WET		-	9
Judy Tankink	Self	χ		
RUDOH TONFINK	Self	X		
- in Ranaul	Celf.	X		
Jin Smith	N+ Rural Education Assx		X	
AMULIAM B. CLAWSONZ	Mons DEMANDACTION		~	
ALAN WREGITT	50/6	X		121
Lyle Mitchell	50#6	7	X	
Kirk Miller	SAM		X	
LANCE MELTON	MISBA		*	8
Surie Hamilton	My Self		$\times$	
	7 0		•	
				¥

Please leave prepared testimony with Secretary. Witness Statement forms are available if you care to submit written testimony.



SUMMARY OF HB 272 - ADOPTION OF UNIFORM COLLABORATIVE LAW ACT Tal M. Goldin, Esq., Immediate Past-President, Western Montana Bar Association

Wells & McKittrick, P.C. p: (406) 728-7177 e: talgoldin@gmail.com

What is collaborative law: Collaborative Law is a straightforward, private, non-court process for resolving legal disputes. Each party is represented by an attorney. The process begins with an agreement signed by the participants to attempt to settle the matter without litigation or even the threat of litigation. The participants promise to take a reasoned stand on every issue, to share relevant information, and negotiate in good faith. The key to the process is: if either party starts a court case, both attorneys must withdraw from representation (with some exceptions). If that happens, the Collaborative Attorney helps his client transition to a new litigation attorney, but does not participate in the lawsuit. Participants also agree that the process is confidential; including any experts (such as accountants or mental health professionals) they mutually hire to help resolve the dispute.

#### Benefits of Collaborative Law:

- Allows voluntarily agreement to resolve the case out of court, through a private contract.
- Focuses parties on mutual interests, problem solving and exploring all possible solutions for resolution, including solutions that may not be available in court.
- Reduces conflict, minimizing the psychological, financial and social impact on the parties and their children.
- Saves time and money by keeping the case out of court and reduces caseloads in the courts.
- Protects parties' individual liberty to make personal choices about the family without government intervention.
- Highly effective: Almost 90% of family law cases are fully resolved, including 2% of cases where the parties reconcile the marriage. Compare to 50-70% settlement rate in other dispute resolution approaches.

#### The Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA):

- Non-partisan law prepared over 3 year research and drafting period by Uniform Law Commission comprised of judges, lawyers, legislative personnel and academics from every state.
- Sets out minimum requirements for and protects the integrity of the process.
- Ensures process is voluntary. Prohibits anyone (including attorneys) from being forced to participate in the process.
- Ensures confidentiality is preserved and agreements are enforceable.
- Creates uniformity in the Collaborative Process amongst the states.
- Includes important protections for the process and the consumer.
- Ensures parties understand the risks, benefits and alternatives available.
- Ensures attorneys consider the appropriateness of the process for the particular case, including consideration of domestic violence issues.
- Requires attorneys and other professionals to comply with (and does not modify) their respective ethics requirements (e.g. Rules of Professional Conduct governing attorneys).
- Since 2009, the UCLA has been enacted in 11 jurisdictions: Alabama, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Nevada, Ohio, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

#### Kristin Little MS, MA, LMHC

600 N 36<sup>th</sup> Street #327 Seattle WA 98103

Phone: 206. 295.8673

E-Mail:

kristinlittlecounseling@gmail.com

June 10, 2014

Honorable Committee Members:



As a former client of a Collaborative Divorce, I was moved last year to testify on behalf of Washington State's adoption of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA). I am now writing in support of Montana's adoption of the UCLA.

When my divorce began five years ago, I felt angry, betrayed and, thinking about my 1-year-old son sleeping peacefully upstairs, terrified. Suffice to say I was not feeling particularly cooperative towards my now former husband and, despite being an experienced mental health professional, I was not acting, or intending to act entirely reasonable. I agreed to use Collaborative Law at my husband's suggestion, and though I was not in agreement with divorcing, I am ever grateful for his choice to pursue the dissolution with Collaborative support.

The Collaborative process and skilled professionals provided me the support I needed to move from my stance of anger and distrust to one of engagement and willingness to work together to reduce the conflict and create a future vision for our new family. If we had chosen a different route, I am certain I would have used the legal process as a weapon and my lawyer as a proxy to vent my rage and fear against my former husband. It took me a long time and a lot of support to understand my "rights" were not necessarily the best foundation to chart the future of my family.

The Collaborative professionals skillfully guided me thought this process. Through transparency they assured me that the process was fair and with concrete skills they helped me to protect my own well-being and that of my child. They allowed me to grieve the loss of my dreams for my one-home family and create a new path towards a healthy future that was different, yes, but a more realistic and positive one that my family can benefit from for years to come.

As a mental health professional who has spent 17 years working to help children cope with conflict in their families, I find that Collaborative Law actually works to prevent the damage to daily life and family relationships typical in divorce and afford children and families the chance to thrive even in difficult circumstances. After my divorce, I became a Collaborative Child Specialist for this reason and am passionate about helping families create a positive future focus and develop skills that strengthen family bonds during and after the changes their families' experience.

If it were not for Collaborative Law, my former husband and I would not have gained a settlement that met the unique needs of our family and, most importantly, would not have been able to enjoy the past holidays together in peace and with warmth and support for each others new circumstances. Celebrating ingether with my former husband, his partner and their new baby, my parents and extended family has become our new tradition. If not for Collaborative Law, it may have happened eventually, but it may have taken years, during which my child and my family would have suffered.

As an experienced Licensed Mental Health Counselor I was persuaded by the benefits to my family and, combined with my professional experience with children and families in crisis, decided to become a part of the Collaborative Law profession as a Child Specialist. I heartily believe that our work in Washington State provides a viable option for divorcing couples that wish to challenge themselves to work together instead of deepening conflict. I hope that you can support parents in maintaining the stability and bonds of their family in the face of difficult change, and I hope you will support the Collaborative professionals who serve them at a time of great need by enacting the UCLA in Montana.

Sincerely, Kristin Little, Mom, LMHC

## Montana State Senate DATE 1/29/15

EXHIBIT



SENATOR NELS SWANDAL SENATE DISTRICT 30

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The Big Sky Country

AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

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January 27, 2015

Re: House Bill 272, the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA)

House Judiciary Committee State Capitol Helena, MT

Dear Chair Bennett and Members of the Committee:

I urge your favorable action on H.B. 272.

The Uniform Collaborative Law Act was promulgated by the Uniform Law Commission in 2009, and amended in 2010. It provides a necessary, comprehensive statute to address the growing practice of collaborative law, providing consistency in place of the existing patchwork of laws governing the practice. Collaborative law is a voluntary, client-driven form of alternative dispute resolution practiced in all 50 states. It has been widely used in family law cases, and is beginning to be used in other types of cases, such as insurance disputes or disputes between members of closely held businesses. Its increased use as a dispute resolution mechanism requires there be clear standards, and consistent treatment between the states. The UCLA standardizes the most important features of the collaborative law process, protecting consumers, preventing lawyers from engaging in unethical practices, and creating rules governing the disclosure of information and evidentiary privilege.

There are several reasons to support the Act:

- Consistency The UCLA provides consistency from state to state regarding the enforceability of collaborative law agreements. This consistency is important for parties who may choose collaborative law as a process by which to resolve interstate disputes.
- Minimum Requirements for Agreements The UCLA establishes minimum requirements for collaborative law participation agreements. They must include written agreements that state the parties' intention to resolve their dispute through the collaborative process, a description of the matter, and designate collaborative lawyers.
- Process Beginning/End The UCLA gives specific instruction on when and how the collaborative law process begins and concludes.



- Clear Disqualification Requirement The UCLA codifies the disqualification requirement for collaborative lawyers if the collaborative process concludes. The disqualification requirement is a fundamental characteristic of the collaborative process.
- Modified Disqualification Rules The UCLA modifies the disqualification rule for lawyers representing low income clients or government parties. Specifically, the Act allows legal aid offices, firms providing pro bono services, and law school clinics to continue to represent low income clients even if the collaborative process fails. By modifying the disqualification rule, the Act assures that low income and government parties have access to this form of dispute resolution without detrimentally affecting their future ability to obtain legal services.
- Screening Requirements The UCLA directs lawyers to advise clients about alternatives for dispute resolution (such as litigation, arbitration, and mediation), mandates that the lawyers screen for instances of domestic violence or other coercive behavior, and orders the lawyer to assess with the prospective client whether a collaborative law process is appropriate for the case.
- Privileged Communications The UCLA creates a privilege for communications that
  occur during the collaborative law process that would otherwise not be available, or
  would vary when a dispute crosses state lines.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sen. Nels Swandal Senate District 30

NS/sh



## Amendments to House Bill No. 1st Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Matthew Monforton

For the House Judiciary Committee

Prepared by Todd Everts February 5, 2015 (12:10pm)

1. Title, page 1, line 6 through line 8.

Strike: "REQUIRING" on line 6 through "CIRCUMSTANCES;" on line 8

2. Title, page 1, line 10.

Following: "DATE"

Insert: "AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE"

3. Page 1, line 15 through line 16.

Strike: ", district" on line 15 through "city court judge" on line 16

4. Page 1, line 18.

Following: "from"

Strike: "a"

Insert: "another"

5. Page 1, line 19.

Following: "from"

Strike: "a"

Insert: "another"

6. Page 1, line 20.

Strike: "from the party or the party's attorney"

7. Page 1, line 22 through line 26.

Strike: subsections (3) and (4) in their entirety

8. Page 2, line 2.

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 4. {standard} Applicability.
[This act] applies to contributions received after [the effective date of this act]. "

- END -